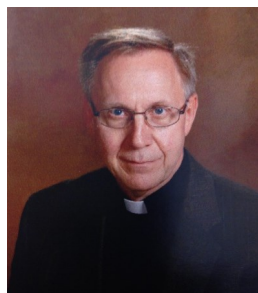


September 2017

The Caller

Saint John Lutheran Church



Pastor Jon Benson



Deacon Lisa Johnson

Installation of Deacon Lisa Johnson As Children, Youth and Family Minister

Weekend of September 9 & 10 at all three services.

Refreshments will be served on Saturday after worship.

A brunch will be served on Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Reservations are required for the brunch.

Please call the church office

if you plan to attend. 712-323-7173

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 17 at 9:45 a.m.
in the Faith & Life Center

The congregation will be discussing improvements to the east parking lot. The projected cost is \$40,000 and will involve moving the utility pole on the southeast side of the building, thus requiring a congregational vote.

Fall Faith Formation

*Followers of
Christ
who seek to
HEAR
the Word,
LIVE
the Word
and
SHARE
the Word.*

Sunday School

Classes begin on Sunday, September 10 at 9:45 am. Meet in the sanctuary for music and to meet the teachers. Children ages 3 through 8th grade are invited to participate, and high school students are welcome to volunteer to help out in the classes.

Confirmation

For students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades, class begins on September 13 and meets on Wednesdays. We will gather for a meal at 5:30 pm and then have class from 6:30-7:45 pm. Included in confirmation is the opportunity to get involved in the worship life of Saint John by acolyting, ushering and greeting.

Acolyte Training

Acolyte training will be September 6 at 5:30 pm (for 6th grade), 6:30 pm (for 7th grade), and 7:30 pm (for 8th grade). Whether you have acolyte before or not, please plan to attend the training. Families with students in multiple grades need only attend one session together.

(continued on next page)

G.I.F.T - Growing in Faith Together

Beginning on Wednesday, September 13, the GIFT program will meet around the baptismal font in the sanctuary from 5:30-6:00 pm to learn Bible stories, share in faith practices, and grow in faith together. GIFT is geared toward families with infants and children up to eight years old, but all are welcome at any age (especially grandparents, sponsors, etc.) If you are interested in learning more or would like to help lead one of the weeks, please contact the office or Deacon Lisa.

High School Youth Group

We will have a bonfire on Saturday, September 16 at 5:00 pm at the home of Megan & Trevor Petersen, 18388 250th St., Co. Bluffs. The Petersen's house is located off E. Kanessville Blvd. (US Hwy 6) & 250th Street.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

(6:00 – 7:00) Beginning on September 13, the Wednesday Night Adult Study will resume. During the first two months, the class will be reading and discussing one of Martin Luther's finest treatises, "The Freedom of a Christian." We will be reading from a recently translated version of The Annotated Luther Study Edition, published by Fortress Press. Copies are available for purchase at \$8.50 per book. Please note the change in time, the class meeting one half hour earlier each Wednesday night. If you have any questions, talk with Pastor Jon

Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study

Each Wednesday at 9:00 am we meet to explore the scripture lessons for the upcoming weekend worship services. Meet in the Welcome Center as we learn together.

Baptism Class

If you plan to have a child baptized in the near future or want to learn more about the rite of baptism there will be a class offered on **Sunday, September 24** at 12:15 p.m. This class is mandatory for parents who wish to have their child baptized. Please call the church office if you are interested, 323-7173.

Saint John 101

(New Member Orientation)

We will meet on three Sundays, **September 24 and October 1 & 8** at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room. There will be a reception honoring new members on Sunday, October 15 between services. Please call the church office (712-323-7173) if you are interested or have questions.

Social Groups in September

Good Time Group

We will be going to Cascio's Steakhouse, 1620 S. 10th St. in Omaha on Saturday September 9 at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP to suzannem@cox.net or call 712-323-9999 by Tuesday, September 5th so we can make the reservation. Tentatively we will have a special menu to include a choice of steak, chicken, fish or pasta. We look forward to seeing everyone. Bob & Suzanne Kossow

Players Group

The Players Group meets on the first Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m. A picnic at The Narrows is planned for Friday, September 1, hosted by Anne & Bill Vorthmann; food provided by Family Fare Grocery.

Men's Club

The Men's Club will meet on September 21 at 11:30 am at Sugar's, 2725 E. Kanessville Blvd. Men of all ages are welcome to join us for a good lunch and great conversation. Call the church office (323-7173) or sign up on the bulletin insert during worship if you plan to attend.

Bethany News

BETHANY AUXILIARY SALAD LUNCHEON AND BAKE SALE - Mark your calendar and plan to enjoy great food and fellowship at the annual Bethany Auxiliary Salad Luncheon, **September 20th** from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The luncheon and bake sale will be held at Saint John Lutheran Church, 633 Willow Avenue in Council Bluffs. Tickets are \$7 and are available from your Church Key Lady or at the door. We promise you won't go away hungry!! Join us for lunch and grab some goodies from the bake sale for later. Help support the Bethany Auxiliary. Proceeds support Resident projects at Bethany. Thank you.

BETHANY GOLF OUTING UPDATE - The Annual Bethany Best Ball Golf Outing is just around the corner. The event will be held this year at **Dodge Riverside Golf Course in Council Bluffs on Saturday, September 30th**. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. The registration fee is \$75/ per person and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, hole prizes, food and much more. Come spend an enjoyable time golfing and support Bethany at the same time. We hope you will be able to join us. Please feel free to invite others. The outing is open to everyone. Individuals, Couples and Foursomes are welcome!! If you have questions or need a registration form, please contact Diane Carlon at 712-329-5451 or e-mail at carlon@bethanylutheranhome.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Bethany Lutheran Home is looking for more volunteers. There are several options available. We are in need of volunteers to help on shopping trips, museum visits and other outings, both assisting and wheelchair "push" power. Any fees or admission associated with the activity will be covered by Bethany. In addition, we are looking for volunteers to help on a regular basis with the General Store, playing games or cards, helping with crafts or assisting with the gardens. If you would be interested in learning more about opportunities available, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500.

HALLOWEEN CANDY WANTED - Fall is just around the corner and so is Halloween. Each year, Bethany opens its doors to provide a safe, indoor environment for children to trick or treat. Our Residents/Tenants enjoy having the "little visitors" and love to hand out candy. Last year more than 350 children came to visit. The candy can be dropped off at Bethany anytime during the week or brought to church and will be collected by Bethany. Any type of candy/treats/snacks are appreciated, but must be individually wrapped. Thank you for your support. **This year we will be hosting our Trick or Treat night on October 30th from 6:00-7:15 p.m. at both Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights.**

GARDEN PRODUCE - Thank you for your generous donations of garden produce. What a blessing it has been for our residents and tenants to enjoy homegrown vegetables. They definitely let us know they can tell when something is homegrown. We continue to enjoy the generosity of the bounty and appreciate your donations. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Carlon at 712-329-5451. Thank you again.

BETHANY GENERAL STORE - The BLH Residents enjoy shopping each month in the Bethany General Store. Residents are able to shop free using General Store Bucks they receive when participating in various activities. The store is very popular and is in need of additional supplies. We're asking for your help to restock the shelves. Many of our residents have limited resources so the store allows them to shop for items they may need or would enjoy. We are currently in need of the following **NEW** items: individual servings of snacks (soda, candy bars, chips, etc.), personal care items (shampoo, conditioner, perfume or cologne, aftershave, men's and women's body wash, footie socks, etc.), small wall art, small radios or clocks, Word Find Books. Stuffed animals and costume jewelry are also popular items and can be contributed, if in **good condition**. If you are interested in donating to the store, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500. Thank you.

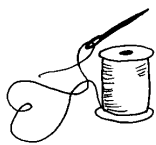
BIBLE STUDY / BIBLE DISCUSSION VOLUNTEER NEEDED - The Activities Department at Bethany Lutheran Home is looking for someone to lead a Bible Study, Discussion or Devotion/Story Time in our Ivy Terrace Memory Care area. The time and date are flexible depending on schedule. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Kaily at Bethany Lutheran Home at 712-328-9500, ext. 230.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE - Help us spread the word. Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights have several employment opportunities available. More information can be found on www.Indeed.com or www.CareerLink.com websites.

CHRISTMAS STORE -It's hard to believe that it won't be long until the holidays and the Bethany Christmas Store. The Christmas Store is where Bethany residents can select a gift for their family/ loved ones for Christmas free of charge. This is due to the generosity of so many who donate items each year. As you shop this fall, we hope you will remember the Bethany Christmas store. The dates for this year's Christmas Store are December 4th and 5th from 9-11:30 a.m. and December 6th from 6-7:30 p.m. More details to follow next month.

Sewing Group

"Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you..." - Psalm 55:22



When we make quilts, we do *good works* on many levels. It brings us together in fellowship, it creates a tangible message of love and caring to strangers in a far off land, and it *delivers warmth and comfort to those who need it most*. We welcome you this month to come and *make quilts to help others*. Please consider *doing good works* by providing some comfort to those in distress. The *Saint John Sewing Group* is always looking for a new pair of hands to help tie quilts for *Lutheran World Relief!* We'll try to make you feel right at home, whether you come just once or wish to become part of this ministry. Please come and share in fellowship, devotions, and snacks. **Change the date!** Next meeting will be September 13th, between 9:00 A.M. and Noon. See you then! For more information, please call Sue Pagan at 325-0257.

Sheets Needed: The Sewing Group needs donations of sheets, full-sized and larger, for making quilts. Please bring them to the church office or put on the table by the bulletin board. Thank you.

Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on September 19.

Bloomer-Saint John Connection

Volunteers are needed for the 2017-2018 school year to work with children preschool-2nd grade one-on-one and/or with the 4th & 5th grade book club. The book club is run through the school library and you'll work with the same group of 6-8 children each month Commitment is 20 minutes/child each week or every other week. For more information contact Deb Ingwersen. Applications are on the wall outside the church office.



The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited and no prior experience necessary! Come have fun and learn some great music! If you have any questions, feel free to email Eric Wyler at wylar.eric@gmail.com

Praise Team – Do you play an instrument and/or love to sing? The Praise Team will practice every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome, come join us. You don't have to commit to singing every week. We are going to have 5-6 singers commit to each weekend and rotate singers.

Altar Guild Schedule

September 2 - 8
Mary Lou Burke
Mary Lou Hansen
Alan Meilike
Marie Neal

September 9 - 15
Marlys Lien
Mary Jensen
Shelly Menard
Andreia Nebel

September 16 - 22
Jan Girton
Cookie Johnson
Becky Taylor
Kim Pace

September 23 - 29
Linda Hansen
Patricia Minchin
Elaine von Gillern

Altar Guild meeting on Monday, September 25 at 1:30 pm.



Women of the Church Schedule

Ruth Group: Mon., September 11, 1:30 p.m.
Esther Group: Tues., September 12, 9:30 a.m.
Mary Group: Thurs., September 14,, 9:00 a.m.

Women's Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 26 at 9:30 a.m.

Help Needed For Wednesday Night Meals



Confirmation and GIFT will be starting soon. Food and fellowship was a huge success last year and we are going to continue this endeavor this year. If you would be willing to help with a meal, or if you are feeling brave and would like to chair a meal, it would be much appreciated. Please contact Peggy Tye at 712-256-5302 (H) or 712-308-1203, or kptye49@gmail.com

New Arrivals

Calvin Nichalaus, son of Mallory & Nick Johnston, was born on July 28. Grandparents are Becky & Steve VanderHelm and great-grandmother is Arlene Borwick.

Meela Rayne, daughter of Andrea & Craig Alderton, was born on August 1.

Xavier Steven & Logan Walter, sons of Robby & Allie Graham, were born on August 11. Great-grandparents are Eldred & Jan Butts.

Amalia Lynne Marie, daughter of Heather & Ben Harold, was born on August 13. Grandparents are Pastor John and Carol Plowman.

Audrey Ann, daughter of Heath & Sara Schneider, was born on August 16. Grandparents are Margaret & Richard Schneider.

September Milestones

80th Birthday

Diane Welch (September 15)
5413 Hardings Landing Rd.
Co. Bluffs, IA 51501

85th Birthday

Albert Danker (September 25)
4708 N. Shore Dr.
Co. Bluffs, IA 51501

97th Birthday

Margaret Oviatt (September 11)
2545 Ave. D
Co. Bluffs, IA 51501

55th Wedding Anniversary

Sandra & Gary Bronson (September 2)
203 Dayan Dr.
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

Scrip Cards

Scrip is an easy way to give to the church by simply doing your regular shopping. Just buy a Scrip card for face value and you get to spend the face amount. The church then gets a percentage of the value of the cards. The profits have been used to buy new Christmas trees for the altar, storage shelves and containers in the kitchen pantry and several other things. Consider giving it a try if you haven't already.

Baptisms

Sunday, August 13
Adam Joseph Roane, son of Jennifer and Nate Roane
Elias James Petersen, son of Megan and Trevor Petersen

Sunday, August 27
Jordyn Judith Mauch and Daniel Alan Mauch,
children of Mary and Josh Mauch

Sympathy to the Families of ...

Dennis Jones, son of Phyllis Jones, who passed away on August 2.

Ethel Sorensen, mother of Rich Sorenson, who passed away on August 9.

Ricky Stegall, grandson of Leola Poppen, who passed away on August 22.

Wedding

Morgan Elizabeth Means and Collin Eliot Fast were married on August 5.



Would your student
enjoy receiving
the Caller each month?
Send college mailing
addresses to
info@saintjohnelca.org
or call the
church office
712-323-7173.

Contact Us

Senior Pastor: Rev. E. Jon Benson (JonBenson@SaintJohnELCA.org)
Children, Youth & Family Minister: Deacon Lisa Johnson (lisajohnson.saintjohn@gmail.com)
Parish Ministry Coordinator: Patricia S. Minchin
Chancel / Bell Choir Director: Eric Wyler (wyler.eric@gmail.com)
Pianist/Organist: Joan Ebersold
Choir On Fire Director: Tracy Frush
Nursery Attendant:
Youth & Family Intern: Paige Hickey (paige.hickey@nechristian.edu)
Stephen Minister Leaders: Mary Lou Hansen (322-7248), Alan Meilike (328-1671) Debbie Plugge (256-5310)
Pastor Jon Benson (323-7173)
Office Manager and *The Caller* Editor: Terri Damgaard (TerriD@SaintJohnELCA.org)
Office Assistant: Kim Malskeit (712-323-7173)

Saint John Lutheran Church

633 Willow Ave.
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4242

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